



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
COCONINO & TONTO NATIONAL FOREST**

TEMPORARY ROAD AND AREA CLOSURE FOR THE BACKBONE FIRE

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the roads, trails, and within the area described in this Order (the “Restricted Area”) and as depicted in the attached map, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A, within the Coconino National Forest, Red Rock Ranger District, the Prescott National Forest, Verde River District, and the Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District, within Gila and Yavapai County, Arizona.

1. Going into or being upon the Restricted Area. **36 C.F.R. § 261.52(e).**
2. Being on the road. **36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e)**
3. Being on the trail. **36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a)**

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a written Forest Service authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order; and
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

RESTRICTED AREA, INCLUDING CLOSED ROADS AND TRAILS

As depicted in Exhibit A, the following National Forest System lands, roads, and trails are closed:

- National Forest System Road (FR) 708, from its intersection with Arizona State Route (SR) 260, following in a southeast direction to the gate at 34° 24' 22.536" N, 111° 34' 37.884" W, approximately one mile west of the Bob Bear (formerly Fossil Springs) Trailhead.
- FR 502 in its entirety, starting from the Verde River at 34° 21.496' N, 111° 42.639', following northwest for approximately 7.2 miles to its junction with FR 708.
- FR 9D, starting at the cattle guard at Ed’s Point (34° 25.026' N, 111° 37.754' W), following southwest for approximately 3.6 miles to its junction with FR 708.
- FR 784 in its entirety, starting at its intersection with FR 708, following northeast to the Bob Bear (formerly Fossil Springs) Trailhead.
- The Verde River corridor, to include the land ¼ mile on the west side and 1 mile on the east side of

the river, starting at the coordinates of 34° 22.556' N, 111° 44.624' W, then following approximately 36.37 miles south to Sheep Bridge 34° 4.658' N, 111° 42.467' W.

- The Fossil Creek corridor, to include the land ½ mile on both sides of the creek, starting at the Fossil Creek junction with Tin Can Draw, following downriver to the confluence with the Verde River (this area includes the following developed recreation sites: Childs, Sally May, Dixon Lewis (formerly Waterfall) Trailhead, Purple Mountain, Mazatzal Homestead, Fossil Creek Bridge, Tonto Bench, Irving (Flume Trailhead), and Sheep Bridge Trailhead).
- The Towel Creek corridor, to include land ½ mile on each side of the canyon bottom, starting at the Creek headwaters at 34° 24.612' N, 111° 42.438' W, then following southeast to the confluence with the Verde River.
- Sally May Wash, to include the land ½ mile on each side of canyon bottom, starting at Pambo Tank, following south to Fossil Creek.
- Doren's Defeat Canyon, to include the land ¼ mile on each side of canyon bottom, starting at the intersection with FR 708, following to Doren's Defeat Tank.
- Boulder Canyon, to include land 1/2 mile on each side of canyon bottom, starting at ½ mile south of FR 9C, following south to Fossil Creek.
- Mud Tanks Draw, to include land ¼ mile on each side from canyon bottom, starting at the Wilderness boundary, following south to Fossil Creek.
- Bob Bear Trail in its entirety, starting at its intersection with FR 708 to Fossil Creek, including the Bob Bear (formerly Fossil Springs) Trailhead.

PURPOSE

To protect the public's health and safety from unsafe conditions resulting from the Backbone Fire.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order will be in effect on August 23, 2021, at 9 a.m., and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2022, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
2. A map identifying the Restricted Area, including closed roads and trails, is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of the Order map for the Coconino NF, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/coconino/alerts-notice>.
3. Violation of the prohibition in this Order is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor or a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both (*see* 16 U.S.C. § 551, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581).
4. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office in Flagstaff, Arizona at (928) 527-3600 or the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office at (602) 225-5200
5. This Order supersedes Order 03-04-21-19 and any previous order prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done this 23rd day of August, 2021.

Laura Jo West
Forest Supervisor
Coconino National Forest

Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest